

City of Alexandria, Virginia

MEMORANDUM

DATE: SEPTEMBER 21, 2016

TO: MEMBERS OF THE TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

FROM: CARRIE SANDERS, DEPUTY DIRECTOR, TRANSPORTATION & ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES

SUBJECT: AGENDA ITEM #4 – 2016 TRANSPORTATION LONG RANGE PLAN

ISSUE: 2016 update to the Transportation Long Range Plan (LRP)

RECOMMENDATION: That the Transportation Commission (Commission) hold a public hearing and approve the 2016 LRP.

BACKGROUND: As part of its responsibility to develop and maintain a comprehensive Transportation Long Range Plan (LRP) that identifies the City's long-range transportation needs, the Commission first adopted an LRP in April 2010. The LRP is an unconstrained list of all transportation related capital projects and studies identified in City plans and policies. Projects on the LRP have no identified funding source. Once projects on the LRP receive partial or full funding, they are moved from the unconstrained LRP to the City's constrained Capital Improvement Program (CIP).

Each year the Commission updates the LRP transportation projects and studies from plans adopted since the last update. Additional projects and studies not captured in the previous LRP may be added, and projects and studies no longer relevant may be removed if they have been completed or funded in the City's CIP.

DISCUSSION: The most recent draft 2016 LRP includes changes based on the guidance provided by the Commission at its April 20, 2016 work session. This includes a number of projects and studies that have been removed, consolidated, or moved to a new developer contingent list. A number of recent plans have been recently approved since the 2015 LRP, including the Eisenhower West Small Area Plan, Oakville Triangle-Route 1 Corridor Plan, and Pedestrian and Bicycle Master Plan Update. All of these plans include a significant number of recommended transportation projects and studies that are currently unfunded or have not been added to the CIP. These projects have been added to the 2016 LRP. They have been organized in a manner consistent with the guidance provided by the Commission.

At the June 15, 2016 Commission meeting, staff provided an overview of the draft 2016 LRP project priorities based on the individual Commission ranking of priorities using prioritization

criteria approved by the Commission during the 2015 LRP process. The Commission recommended that two projects—Route 1 intersection improvements and the Commonwealth Avenue non-motorized bridge—swap rankings. In addition, one of the Commission members asked if staff could prepare a revised scoring methodology. The original scoring methodology—which has been used in previous years—summed the commissioners’ scores to create a composite score for each project and then ranked these composite scores. The requested revised methodology ranks each commissioner’s individual score, creating a set of project rankings for each commissioner. The rank of each project is then determined by summing the ranks (not the scores) of each commissioner. The revised methodology resulted in similar project rankings, with an average difference (shift up or down in rank) of 1.79.

At the July 20, 2016 Transportation Commission meeting, the Commission reviewed the revised project ranking with the swapped projects, and the optional scoring methodology. The revised methodology resulted in most of the project rankings being similar to the original scoring methodology with the exception of a few projects. The Commission agreed that because most of the project rankings were similar, and because the original methodology is consistent with the methodology used in previous years, it made sense to use a consistent methodology for comparison reasons.

It is recommended that Transportation Commission (Commission) hold a public hearing and approve the 2016 LRP at their September 2016 meeting.

- ATTACHMENTS:**
1. Draft 2016 LRP – Projects List
 2. Draft 2016 LRP – Developer Contingent Project List
 3. Draft 2016 LRP – Studies List